

The New England College of

# Optometry

**2008 Annual Report Issue**



**NECO Pioneers in the Building  
of the VA Optometry Service**

## **INSIDE**

The Alaskan Optometrist

Frank Thorn: Vision Science to China

Commencement 2008

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The New England College of

# Optometry

NOT FOR CIRCULATION



In 1974, when Kenneth Myers, OD '74 became the first director of optometry with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there were only nine optometrists serving patients at VA hospitals. Today, the VA is one of the largest employers of optometrists in the country. Most of the individuals responsible for building the VA's optometry service are NECO alumni.

Edward C. Godnig, OD '76 spends a fair amount of time in the air – flying into remote Native American settlements in Alaska where he provides eye care to children and adults, many of whom have never previously seen an optometrist. The NECO adventurer has also taken a dip in the Arctic Ocean, skied on the Iditarod Trail, and fished for salmon and Dolly Varden.

The commute to work sometimes runs 30 hours or more for Frank Thorn, OD '79, who regularly travels to China and other countries in Asia, South Africa, South America, and Europe educating optometrists. This scholar, scientist and renowned expert on the causes and development of myopia also heads NECO's growing Vision Science Department.

Letter from the President .....	2
Commencement 2008.....	3
Building VA's Optometry Service .....	4
The Alaskan Optometrist.....	8
Frank Thorn: Vision Science to China .....	12

The Class of 2012.....	16
Annual Report .....	17
Alumni Perspective .....	27
Alumni Classnotes .....	28
Faculty News.....	32

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# letter from the PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni,

One of my favorite themes when I visit with alumni and corporate leaders is that our College has a significantly greater impact on eye care delivery, research and education than many realize.

This special annual report issue illustrates how some of our alumni are making a major difference in the lives of so many individuals in this country and abroad through their generous contributions, both professionally and financially.

The lead story (Page 4) is an inspiring tale of how a number of our outstanding alumni are largely responsible for the success of the country's largest employer of optometrists – the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Virtually all of the first optometrists to join the VA Optometry Service were NECO graduates and many later moved on to leadership positions in the VA or back here at the College. A new generation of alumni is continuing to play major roles in VAs throughout the country.

Another wonderful example of how an individual optometrist can make a difference in the lives of individuals is the story (Page 8) about Dr. Edward C. Godnig '76. He gave up a comfortable life and practice in Kittery, ME and moved to Alaska to provide eye care to Native Americans in remote settlements – setting up clinics in local halls and schools.

When it comes to offering care to underserved populations, there are few better examples than our own New England Eye Institute (NEEI). Our students and faculty are working in 42 locations, including community health centers, specialty schools, homeless shelters, public schools and senior living communities.

As one of the largest non-profit eye care providers in Massachusetts, we are particularly proud that NEEI and our partners handle more than 80,000 visits annually from many individuals who might not otherwise have access to quality eye care. Not incidentally, our new First Years (Page 16) say our clinical program is one of the major reasons why they decided to study at NECO.

And finally, anyone who has been associated with our College during the last three decades will surely enjoy the story (Page 12) about Frank Thorn, OD '79, PhD, a distinguished scientist who has carried the NECO banner and improved the quality of optometric education internationally through his teaching assignments in South America, Western Europe, Africa and Asia.

Elizabeth Chen  
President

# commencement '08



David Ferris, OD '66

An alumnus who has played a major national role in the optometry profession and the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) were awarded honorary degrees at the College's 114th graduation exercises.

Some 114 graduates were awarded degrees.

David W. Ferris, OD '66, a former president of the American Optometric Association and the Rhode Island Optometry Association, as well as Chairman of the Rhode Island State Board of Optometry, was honored for more than 40 years of contributions to the profession.

He is credited with playing the lead role in obtaining Federal approval for optometry to be covered by Medicare. Along with his colleagues in Rhode Island, he was also instrumental in obtaining the first state legislation to approve the use of pharmaceuticals by optometrists – landmark legislation that changed the course of the optometric profession in the early 1970s.

Dr. Ferris is the founder of Dr. David Ferris & Associates in Warwick, RI and is a third generation optometrist

Janet LaBreck, the MCB commissioner, is a national expert on vocational rehabilitation issues and facilitated the development and implementation of a national employment network for the blind. She is the first legally blind individual to receive an honorary degree from the College.

The Commission for the Blind was created in 1906 to provide “the highest quality rehabilitation and social services leading to independence and economic self-sufficiency” for blind and visually impaired individuals. Helen Keller was one of the original commissioners.





# NECO Pioneers

## Building the VA's Optometry Service

BY EILEEN MCCLUSKEY

When Kenneth Myers, OD '74, arrived for his first day as the founding director of optometry with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, he was shown to an old wooden desk in the corner of his boss's office. "My only job was to keep track of eyeglasses contracts," Dr. Myers recalls of that inauspicious beginning in 1974.

No office and minimal responsibility aptly underscored the fact that optometry had a way to go before it was to become the respected, medically integrated service it is today. Indeed, when Dr. Myers arrived in Washington, there were only nine full-time optometrists in the VA nationally, and only one teaching affiliation at a single VA site.

Today, in large part because of the leadership of NECO faculty and alumni, the VA Optometry Service is a major employer of optometrists in the United States and provides the largest clinical training program for the next generation of eye care professionals.



There are more than 525 ODs working on VA medical staffs who conduct 1.2 million eye care visits annually, train 950 optometry students and more than 100 optometry residents and fellows each year at 180 medical facilities throughout the country. Every NECO student participates in a VA externship.

Dr. Myers began laying the groundwork for optometry's rise at the VA early in his fruitful career there. In 1976, he and the American Optometric Association (AOA) won Congressional approval for Public Law 94-581 which established the VA Optometry Service. Most importantly, the law provided him with the authority and the budget to transfer optometrists from Civil Service onto a level playing field with the VA's physician-dentist's salary and privileging system.

When Dr. Myers considers the struggle to usher optometry into the VA's medical fold, he gives central credit to Charles Mullen, OD '69, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New England Eye Institute

and a member of the NECO Board of Trustees. "I had been trained at NECO to view optometry as comparable to medicine," Dr. Myers says. "This new model, created by Charlie Mullen, made eminently good sense to me."

Dr. Mullen – who from 1990 – 96 served as director of the VA Optometry Service, and then went on to become president of the Illinois College of Optometry – was NECO's special assistant to the president for clinical development from 1970 – 76 where he created and implemented a new model of clinical training – placing optometry students in settings where they are integrated with the other health care providers.



Charles Mullen, OD '69





Gerald Selvin, OD '73

issued a report supporting Dr. Myers' position. "Soon after that report came out," he says, "I found a memo on my desk saying I could hire 30 optometrists."

## ALUMNI MAKE THEIR MARKS IN THE VA OPTOMETRY SERVICE

Nearly all of those first hires were NECO graduates, all of whom later moved on to leadership positions in the VA and/or the College. They included Barry Fisch, OD '71, Rodney Gutner, OD '73, Cliff Scott, OD '68, and Gerald Selvin, OD '73. "To them and to me, the VA was another place to implement the NECO model," Dr. Myers says.

Each of these alumni made great strides with the VA, and continue to make their mark. Dr. Selvin, whose VA career began in 1976, is now chief of the optometry section at the VA's Boston Health Care System.



Kenneth Myers, OD '74

"I believed that quality clinical training could only be achieved in a quality health care setting," he says. He moved students from the relatively isolated training environment of the Kenmore Square clinic – which saw only students and a smattering of local residents – into bustling community health centers throughout the Boston area and later into VA facilities.

Says Dr. Myers, "I was part of that model when I was a student at New England. We students had no fear about operating in medical settings, thanks to Charlie."

After Dr. Myers saw the passage of PL 94-581, he and David Danielson, the AOA's lobbyist, pressed on for another four years to raise optometrists' pay on par with other medical professionals. The General Accounting Office

"The NECO alums were among a few optometrists who were trained to do the type of advanced care the VA needed," he notes. "Charlie Mullen trained us in a way that was years ahead of its time, and we took the model and ran with it."



Dr. Scott, professor of optometry and dean of academic affairs at the College, points out another NECO innovation. "The College recognized the advanced training opportunities available at the VA hospitals," he says, referring to the fact that optometrists at the VA practice under the rules of the state in which they receive their license, not under the more restrictive Massachusetts regulations. "The College and the VA formed an alliance with Boston, West Roxbury, Brockton, Lowell, and Worcester. Every NECO student is required to rotate through a VA teaching facility."

Dr. Gutner, professor of optometry at NECO, worked with the Bedford, Massachusetts VA as chief of optometry from 1981 to 2008, significantly building the extern and residency programs that operate there today. "All parties benefit by this clinical training," he says. "The VA, from having externs and residents involved, the school by having

access to a diverse and challenging patient population. And patients appreciate the quality of the exams. It's a very rewarding partnership."

### NEW FRONTIERS

Though not among the first 30 alumni to forge new paths at the VA, Anthony Cavallerano, OD '72, who serves as the director of the Store and Forward Training Center at VA Boston, played a pivotal role – with Drs. Fisch and Selvin – in starting the VA Boston Ocular Telehealth Center and its Diabetic Teleretinal Imaging Program in 2003.

Dr. Cavallerano is also a professor of optometry and teaches advanced ocular disease at the College.

"Our Store and Forward Training Center is responsible for certifying teleretinal image acquisition technicians and image review specialists from VA facilities nationwide," he explains. "Teleretinal imaging for diabetes became a national program in

2006, and since its inception, we have trained 200 imagers and nearly 100 readers. Additionally, since 2006, almost 200,000 VA patients have been screened for diabetic retinopathy and related ocular and systemic disorders."

Another trail-blazer is Dr. Fisch, who worked with the VA Optometry Service from 1981 – 2008 as chief of optometry at the Brockton, Massachusetts VA and later as chief of optometry at the VA Boston Health Care System.

Dr. Fisch now serves as a professor of optometry at NECO and as Director of the VA's five-year-old optometric research fellowship program. In 2003, he spearheaded the VA's successful bid to start this research fellowship in collaboration with NECO, "to train the next generation of optometrists in clinical research."

"This program, which represents a significant investment by the VA, recognizes optometry within the medical research community. And NECO was integral in this, because of its role in providing the strong didactic component through its graduate program in research," Dr. Fisch says.

"You have to have an excellent didactic component to build an outstanding research fellowship program. Our VA fellows will be the pioneers for new frontiers in optometry." ■





# The Alaskan OPTOMETRIST

BY CAROL STOCKER



A few generations ago hardy souls looking for the challenge of a new world would move west to California. Now such people head north to Alaska, and Edward C. Godnig, OD '76 is one of them.

A native of Staten Island, NY, Dr. Godnig had already made a life for himself in Kittery, Maine, where he had operated his practice, raised his family, and done so much hiking and canoeing that he was running out of new terrain to explore.

Turning 50 brought a restless feeling and when a fellow optometrist he kept meeting at conferences lauded Alaska's unlimited opportunities for adventure, Dr. Godnig was ready to listen. And the professional prospects were promising, too!

So in his 53rd year, full of a sense of adventure, Dr. Godnig set out for the 49th state. He signed up with an Anchorage based optical company which arranged to fly him and his equipment and one of their own opticians to remote Native American settlements where he set up short-term clinics in local halls and schools.

The spirit of 21st century Alaska proved a perfect match with Dr. Godnig's natural optimism and vigor. After visiting 80 different villages over the last five years, he is used to unrolling his sleeping bag and living without either a bed or plumbing.

The biggest risk continues to be flying in and out of these settlements in small planes, which is why he dedicated his 2006 book in part to the bush pilots who got him safely there and back.

"New Eyes on Old Alaska; A Bush-Wise Optometrist's View of 21st Century Alaska," is Dr. Godnig's two-year journal of his first



Edward C. Godnig, OD '76

35 trips into native villages, mostly along the western and arctic coast of Alaska.

Available from the publisher, Northbooks. com, or from Amazon.com, it records the curiosity, awe and joy of a man who knows he is having the greatest adventure of his life – one long extended peak experience – and earning a living and serving his fellow man at the same time.

By the end of the book, Dr. Godnig's sense of wonder almost levitates off the page as he switches format from prose to poetry in his attempts to convey his enthusiasm for Alaska's beauty.

Dr. Godnig has relished his exposure to the traditional dancing, music and lifestyles of his patients' five different Alaskan cultures and traditions: Inupiat, Aleut, Yupik, Athabascan and Tglinkit. He has shared their food, sampling whale, caribou, seal, fresh king crab and Yukon king salmon. They have shown him wild polar bears and grizzlies and told their stories of bear hunting and arctic survival, taught him about ivory carving and drying fresh caught salmon on racks, sold him their art, and in one case offered to trade a lynx fur for a pair of glasses.



Dr. Godnig has also heard the crash of calving glaciers, boated on the Yukon River, cross country skied on sections of the famous Iditarod Trail, stood next to the world's highest totem pole, and swum – very briefly – in the Arctic Ocean. And who wouldn't envy his opportunities to fish for salmon, halibut and Dolly Varden in some of the world's last unspoiled rivers?

The work itself is serious, steady and in some ways different than what is typically found in the Lower 48. Dr. Godnig is sometimes the first OD his patients have ever seen. Some of them hunt for food and depend upon their long distance vision. Most care revolves around preventive education, hygiene and arranging follow-up care. Many in the bush population seek eye care only when they lose or break their glasses or contacts, or when they have an active eye disease.

Hygiene is a problem particularly in the 'honey bucket' villages where there is little or no plumbing available. Packaged cleaning towels and isopropyl alcohol need to be used to maintain hygiene and cleanliness in many of the portable clinics. Of particular concern is the lack of hygiene among many contact lens wearers who feel it is alright to share contacts and solutions among friends. Dr. Godnig often must educate contact lens wearers on the importance of hygiene in preventing potentially serious eye disease.

And since he is usually only at a village for two to three days at a time, follow-up care in treating certain ocular disorders becomes difficult. He must often refer patients to regional clinics for proper follow-up care. As a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, Dr. Godnig is concerned about patients that can benefit from visual training but often his only course of action is to prescribe home-based computer training programs which are usually not widely accepted by bush patients.

Outsiders can be viewed with skepticism by Native Alaskans. Dr. Godnig theorizes this may be because of the abuses that the Russian traders inflicted on them before



Alaska was purchased by the U.S. after the Civil War. On occasion, a drunk or unstable person has a prejudice against ‘outsiders’ and a couple of times Dr. Godnig has been threatened and asked to leave a village. But basketball, along with bingo, is a social mainstay in most villages and the NECO alumnus often uses his court skills in pick-up games with the Native men to win acceptance in a new village.

Despite problems with alcohol, diabetes, and drug abuse, not to mention possible profound environmental changes due to global warming, Dr. Godnig emailed from Alaska, “good will, good humor and the respect for




one another has been a long and enduring part of the Native Alaskan way of life.”

Today, Dr. Godnig owns an optometry practice called The Eye Guys which has evolved into a family enterprise. Both his sons, Cedric and Oliver, plan other careers but their father is enjoying the fact that they have stepped in as apprentice opticians in the meantime and shared some trips with him. Cedric is also a photographer for Binge, a group of extreme winter sports enthusiasts looking for the perfect powder in remote Alaskan mountains (see [binge.com](http://binge.com)).

In 2006, Madeleine, his wife of 34 years, signed on as business manager. Their new home sits high on a hill with views of three mountain ranges and the Cook Inlet in Wasilla, where The Eye Guys is based. ■





Frank Thorn:

# Vision Science to China

BY ELIZABETH MEHREN

In his new office in the leafy Back Bay home of The New England College of Optometry, Frank Thorn, OD '79, PhD, sat with fingers interlaced and legs outstretched. With his white beard and quick, easy smile behind shiny metal eyeglass frames, he had the comfortable presence of a scholar with a hint of Santa Claus. He announced his plans with a calm sense of purpose. "And so," he said in a voice that was disarmingly matter-of-fact, "I'm off to China tomorrow."



It was, after all, his fourth trip to China in less than a year. So, the next day was to be the familiar 30-hour commute rather than the daily 15-minute commute from his home in Newton.

Dr. Thorn exudes a sense of restless energy. He makes no secret of his tendency to bore easily. Colleagues call him a ferment of ideas, someone who freely speaks his mind and has little patience for bureaucracy. In the tradition of many academics, he also loves new ideas and opportunities for change, co-workers say, hoping they shake up institutional cobwebs and reveling in the fallout.

He thinks it is ironic that he has just become the Vision Science Department chairman after showing such disdain for administrative chores all his life. But, he says, "It's relatively easy because our vision science department is already so strong."

"We have a great faculty. My administrative job is to make it easier for them to succeed and to get out of their way. The fun part is to try to make the department even stronger in the future."

Dr. Thorn's multi-page resume includes an NIH fellowship at the UCLA Brain Research Institute, a staff position at the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department at MIT and a stint while a college student portraying a Mississippi gambler at a Bronx theme park. Among his daily assignments at Freedomland USA was "a spectacular gun fight in the OK Saloon."

As an expert on the causes and development of myopia, Dr. Thorn journeyed in 1997 to a remote region of the Amazon rainforests with a team of Brazilian ophthalmologists and bacteriologists to study primitive rainforest Indians. Many villagers had never seen anyone so tall, round, bald, or with eyes the color of the sky. They were afraid of him,



Frank Thorn, OD '79

some convinced that he was not human, with monster and god being possible alternatives. Working with a population that had neither schooling nor written language, Dr. Thorn demonstrated that "illiterate people rarely become myopic." So broad-branched is his work in Brazil that he has often been introduced as an anthropological ophthalmologist.

He was one of the first NECO faculty members to teach in Italy, Spain, France and South Africa and the only one to teach in Thailand. Dr. Thorn quickly volunteered when the college set up a twin-colleges' relationship with the Wenzhou Medical College in 1992. "They wanted some faculty to come over and teach," he remembered. "And at first there were no volunteers, except me."

Arriving at a small dilapidated campus near the city center of Wenzhou a year later, Dr. Thorn and James Comerford, OD '78, PhD, also a professor of vision science at

NECO, became the first U.S. optometrists to teach courses in China. Ophthalmology was a familiar field in China at that time, Dr. Thorn said. But optometry did not exist. The Wenzhou Medical College in collaboration with NECO created the first modern optometry curriculum in China. In fact, a new set of characters had to be devised to describe the new profession.



The Wenzhou Medical College now has two large gleaming new campuses with hundreds of researchers. Dr. Thorn partners with them to study how eye clarity relates to the development of myopia in very young children. He also launched an investigation into whether a child's reading style affects the development of myopia. His third Chinese research project looks at refractive errors in newborn infants, starting when the infant subjects are just three to six days old. And he has been "adopted" by several other groups with whom he works. Dr. Thorn is particularly proud of a special friendship award he recently received from the city of Wenzhou.

Dr. Thorn's work in China has been "important in shaping how The New

England College of Optometry is perceived overseas," said Bina Patel, OD, associate professor and director of international programs at NECO. "He is very innovative with his ideas and concepts. He comes up with good ideas, and he is not afraid to try them, even if funding would be an issue."

The whirlwind of teaching and research marks a career that came about rather unexpectedly. As an undergraduate he signed up to study chemical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. But engineering bored him, so he switched to experimental psychology. His PhD research at the University of Rochester examined the brain waves of cats that showed the brain mechanisms they use to detect things in the visual world.

Pursuing his early research interests, Dr. Thorn packed up a family that had rapidly expanded to four young daughters and moved them to Los Angeles, then Oregon, then back to Rochester. In 1977 he went through the Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Program at NECO while also creating new courses in the neural basis of vision and the development of vision.

Dr. Thorn then joined forces with Dr. Comerford and fellow professor Mark Zorn, OD '80, PhD, who were all graduates of the accelerated program for people with PhDs, to "make quiet changes" at NECO. They helped set up a system of faculty governance, introduced the faculty tenure system, and lobbied for changes in the college's infrastructure.

"Frank has been sort of a mentor for a whole department of researchers at the Wenzhou Medical College," said Dr. Comerford. "The program there has blossomed, and Frank's part in it is probably the most vibrant part of all."





Dr. Comerford said their unstated goal was to infuse the school with a more academic culture. “We were able to set a higher scientific bar. We came in with a different spirit, and with a different view of what we wanted to see in an institution.”

It was Dr. Thorn’s drive that set many of the changes in motion, Dr. Comerford said. “Frank has the energy of somebody who is 20 years younger. He’s a very bright man, and one of the things about these very bright people—they can see the future more clearly, the consequences, what is possible. When I would come up with some problem that was a real knot for me, if I could define it for Frank, I could depend on him to come up with an answer.”

Dr. Thorn thinks their biggest coupe was in research in which they reestablished biological research at the college and then went on in 1995 to create the framework for the Myopia Research Center, starting a new era at the College. Jane Gwiazda, PhD, David Troilo, PhD, Richard Held, PhD, and Debra Nickla, PhD, were brought in to create the center.

Gazing at a desk clock whose face bears Chinese characters, not Western numerals, Dr. Thorn said he feels certain that he could not have had such interesting and productive research opportunities anywhere else.

“I have set up collaborations with some of the greatest people in the world,” he said. “I’ve had a great life here, I really have. But my thoughts are on the things we hope to do in the future.” ■

## LIBRARY GRANT

The NECO Library has received a \$14,500 grant to develop a formal College archive, including documentation of the school’s history and contributions of local scholars and practitioners to the field of vision science.

The grant will enable the library to preserve an historical record of the College’s growth and role in the development of the profession, as well as the work of faculty and graduates.

The funds will enable the Library to preserve, store and organize archived materials for the use of researchers and scholars.

This project is being funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funds from LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), a Federal source of library funding provided by the Institute of Library and Museum Services.



# class of 2012

The College this fall enrolled one of the largest, brightest and diverse incoming classes in its history, according to Taline Farra, OD, director of admissions.

The Class of 2012 is composed of 115 students from 28 states, Canada, Syria and India who are graduates of such outstanding institutions as Brown, Colby, Oberlin, Bowdoin, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Bucknell, Boston College, and the University of Waterloo.

The students scored higher on their OATs (332) and GPAs (3.34) than any other class in recent years. Some 739 students applied for admission and only 28% were accepted, an indication that the College is becoming increasingly competitive, Dr. Farra said.

She attributed the increase in highly qualified applicants to a number of factors, including greater awareness of optometry as a valued career option, increased participation by alumni, faculty and current students in the recruitment effort, and a sharper focus on select colleges, particularly in New England and Canada.

Alumni volunteers and some current students visited their alma maters or colleges in communities where they live or work to participate in career fairs and to speak before pre-optometry clubs.



**Mirage Shah '12**  
Montreal, Quebec

After Mirage graduated from College, he visited a hospital in India where his grandfather worked. He spent some time in the eye bank and corneal grafting departments where hundreds of people every week regained much of their eyesight. The light clicked on for him as well.

Upon returning, he interned at a private optometry practice and, most recently, spent six months working as an ophthalmic technician with a corneal specialist near Annapolis, MD.

Mirage, a NECO presidential scholar, is a graduate of Georgetown University where he won the school's Research Opportunities Program Award for his commitment to scientific research. He is the co-author of a paper in Tetrahedron Asymmetry on organic chemistry research.



**Jacqueline Pokusa '12**  
Lower Burrell, PA

A NECO Presidential Scholar, Jacqueline graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio where she received high honors in biology for a senior research thesis in cellular

biology and won a scholarship awarded on the basis of her potential in the health care field.

After graduation, she worked as a researcher at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in the Department of Biological Sciences, investigating the secretory pathway and its response to changes in cell physiology.

She has also studied abroad in Spain and Costa Rica, focusing on language, culture and environmental science.



**Sneha Kataria**  
Mumbai, India

The daughter of a well-known optician in India, Sneha learned about optometry at an early age and earned a Bachelor's degree in optometry at the Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry at the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India. She was one of only two students from her class selected for an exchange program with the Optometry School at Singapore Polytechnic.

Sneha has worked as an optometrist in the ophthalmology department of P.D. Hinduja National Hospital in India where she did work in low vision and contact lenses.

In her search for an optometry school in the United States to enhance her education and training, she said she selected NECO because of "the (academic) standards they set and the clinical exposure."



# Annual Report '08

The New England College of Optometry



## INSIDE

Board Chairman's Letter

Donor Report

Financial Statements

# letter from the CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

The New England College of Optometry's annual report is more than graphs and balance sheets that show the financial condition of this distinguished institution. It is a tribute and reflection of the belief in the mission of the College by alumni, friends, faculty, staff, foundations, corporations, and the Board of Trustees.

While these difficult economic times create new challenges for the College and many of us, it is heartening for me to see that we are beginning to embrace a culture of philanthropy in which an increasing number of individuals understand the need for support and have taken the responsibility to give generously.

Philanthropy at NECO has always been about giving back, supporting those less fortunate, and strengthening the institution so we can serve the public good by training the next generation of optometrists and providing the highest level of eye care to those in need.

Building a culture of philanthropy involves generating greater understanding of how we fulfill our mission, why it is so important, and encouraging all those committed to the College to support it to the best of their abilities.

It is our responsibility to demonstrate to you that we are careful stewards of your charitable giving through fiscal prudence and an unrelenting effort to provide our students with the finest education possible. I believe President Chen and her colleagues are doing an excellent job of tightening their belts without sacrificing the quality we expect and demand.

The College is in sound financial shape, the physical plant is in excellent condition, student academic achievement is on the rise thanks to an excellent faculty, and we are delivering outstanding eye care to more men, women and children than ever. This is a wonderful time to be associated with NECO.

Steven P. Manfredi  
Chairman of the Board







## THE PHILANTHROPIST'S SOCIETY

(Cumulative Giving of \$50,000 or More)

Members of The Philanthropist's Society are recognized for their cumulative giving to The New England College of Optometry and New England Eye Institute. This distinguished group has demonstrated their exceptional commitment. We are pleased to express our gratitude for their philanthropic leadership.

### Visionary

(\$500,000 and greater)

Bausch & Lomb

Lester Marcus, OD\*

### Humanitarian

(\$250,000-\$499,000)

Alcon Laboratories

Stella Beider\*

CIBA Vision Corporation

G. Burt Holmes, OD

Marco Family Foundation

Maurice Saval\*

The Vision Care  
Institute,™ LLC

Clinton Wilson, OD\*

### Benefactor

(\$100,000 – \$249,999)

American Diabetes  
Association

Edith Heymans\*

Mass Lions Research  
Fund, Inc.

Polymer Technology

State Street Foundation

Vision Service Plan

The Whitaker Foundation

### Leader

(\$50,000-\$99,999)

Anonymous

B&R Foundation

The Boston Foundation

Carl J. and Ruth Shapiro  
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Friends of the Disabled

Gould Family Charitable  
Foundation

Edith Hochstadt\*

Juvenile Diabetes Research  
Foundation

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Donald Korb, OD and  
Joan Exford-Korb, OD

Arnold Katz, OD

Ludcke Foundation

Joseph Molinari, OD

William Tolford, OD\*

(\*) Indicates that the donor  
is deceased.





## THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

The President's Circle recognizes alumni and friends whose gifts totaled \$1,000 and more to the 2008 Annual Fund. Members of this prestigious group are among the College's most loyal supporters. They are recognized at the following levels of giving.

### Ruby

(\$50,000 – \$99,999)

Alcon Laboratories  
Gould Family Charitable  
Foundation

### Emerald

(\$25,000 – \$49,999)

Blue Cross Blue Shield  
of Massachusetts  
Carl J. and Ruth Shapiro  
Family Foundation

### Platinum

(\$10,000 – \$24,999)

William Baldwin, OD  
Boston Center for Blind  
Children  
Elizabeth Chen and  
Richard Edmiston  
Citizens Bank  
Community Foundation of  
Collier County  
John W. Alden Trust  
Steven Manfredi  
Marchon Eyewear, Inc.  
Mass. Lions Eye Research  
Fund, Inc.  
ZVI Construction Co., LLC

### Gold

(\$5,000 – \$9,999)

Donald Higgins, OD  
Robert Hormats  
Lynette Johns, OD  
Benjamin Lambert, III, OD  
The Agnes Lindsay Trust  
MetroWest Community  
Healthcare Foundation  
Transitions Optical Inc.

### Silver

(\$2,500 – \$4,999)

American Optometric  
Association  
Rochester Area Community  
Foundation  
The Sallie Mae Fund  
Norman Spector

### Bronze

(\$1,000 – \$2,499)

Advanced Vision Research  
Christopher Agro, OD  
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Nancy Broude  
Mile Brujic, OD  
Nancy Carlson, OD  
Donald Chen  
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Alan Gold, OD  
Tammy Gray, OD  
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Robert Honnors, OD  
Catherine Kennedy, OD  
Brian Klinger, OD  
Colin Leitch  
Sherborn Lions Club  
Brian Lynch, OD  
Norman MacLeod  
Annie McGuire  
Robert Miller, OD  
David Mills, OD

George Montminy, OD

Frank Myska, OD  
Padmini Nathan, OD  
Network for Good  
Northeast Congress of  
Optometry Fnd  
Robert Parks, OD  
Eliezer Peli, OD  
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(\$250 – 499)

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Donald Czelusniak, OD  
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Glenda Denham, OD  
David Ferris, OD  
Peter Fleming  
Irving Fradkin, OD  
Russell Fradkin, OD  
Kevin Gasiorowski, OD  
Lawrence Ginsberg, OD  
Herbert Gleason  
Edward Goldberg, OD  
Steven Goldstein, OD  
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Care, Inc.  
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John Holdsworth, OD  
Emil Horowitz, OD  
Ann Hudson  
James Hunt  
Lioe Kiong, OD

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Patti Richard, OD  
Susan Rodgin, OD  
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Mary Ann Rubis, OD  
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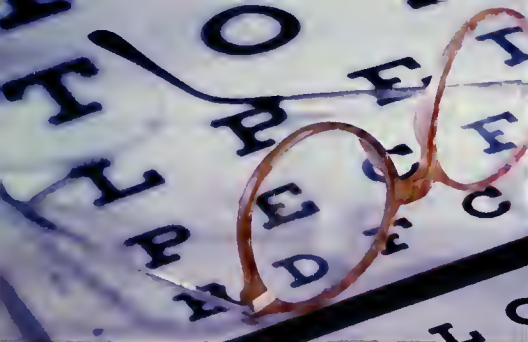
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Paul and Nadine Broude  
Joseph and Joan Broude  
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Benjamin Zeldes, OD



## THE FOSTER NAMIAS SOCIETY

The Foster Namias Society honors individuals who have remembered The New England College of Optometry in their estate plans. We recognize this esteemed group of individuals, with deep gratitude, for their commitment to the future success of the College.

Arthur Baker, OD  
 Stella Beider\*  
 Larry Clausen, OD  
 Carl Doughty, OD  
 Gerald Feldman, OD  
 Joseph Feldberg, OD  
 Marian and Dr. Eugene Fischer\*  
 Edith Heymans\*  
 Edith Hochstadt\*  
 G. Burt Holmes, OD  
 Arnold Katz, OD  
 Andrew Portoghesi, OD  
 Benjamin Lambert III, OD  
 Lester Marcus, OD\*  
 Joseph Molinari, OD  
 Harry Rappoport, OD  
 Maurice Saval\*  
 Gilbert Sellars, OD \*  
 Norman Spector  
 Melvin Stack, OD  
 William Tolford, OD\*

(\*) Indicates that the donor is deceased.

## NEW ENGLAND EYE INSTITUTE

The New England Eye Institute, the clinical system of the College, is a network of eye care centers and programs that reach out to the community with tailored programs for diverse populations.

### Flagship Practice Locations

New England Eye Commonwealth  
 New England Eye Roslindale

### Homeless Service

New England Eye at Pine Street Inn  
 New England Eye at New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans  
 Mobile Care for Rosie's Place  
 Women's Lunch Place  
 St. Francis House  
 Barbara McGinnis House  
 Father Bill's Place  
 Boston Healthcare for the Homeless

## Low Vision and Geriatrics Service

New England Eye at Hebrew Senior Life  
 New England Eye at Greater Boston Aid to the Blind  
 New England Eye at MAB Springfield  
 New England Eye at MAB Worcester  
 Mobile care teams at:  
 Elder Service Plan of Mutual Health (ADC)  
 Elder Service Plan of Harbor Health (ADC)  
 Boston University Geriatric Service (Home Care)  
 Upham's Home Care

## Pediatric School Health Program and Rehabilitation Programs

New England Eye at Framingham Public School  
 Mobile Care Teams at Boston Public School Screening Program  
 Head Start and Early Head Start Programs  
 New England Eye at Perkins School  
 May Institute  
 Cotting School for Multi-handicapped Children  
 Cardinal Cushing Centers at Hanover  
 Renaissance School, Boston

## New England Eye Staffing and Best Practices Support at Community Health Centers

Codman Square Health Center  
 The Dimock Center  
 Dorchester House Multi-Service Center  
 East Boston Neighborhood Health Center  
 Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center  
 Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center  
 Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center  
 Martha Eliot Health Center  
 North End Community Health Center  
 South Boston Community Health Center  
 South End Community Health Center  
 Upham's Corner Health Center

## New England Eye Staffing Support at Hospital Based Programs

New England Eye provides professional staffing support for Department of Ophthalmology, Boston Medical Center and Tufts New England Medical Center and Floating Hospital for Children.



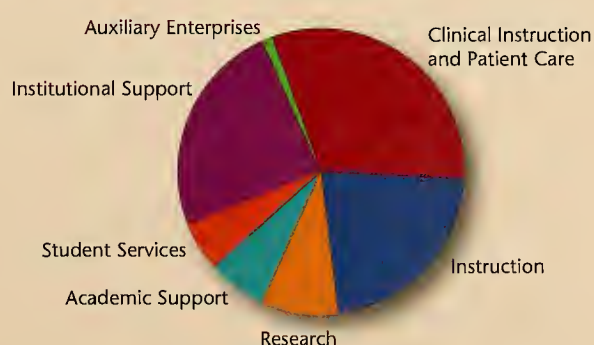
## THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years Ended June 30	2008	2007
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 978,708	\$ 1,202,308
Cash on deposit with trustee	155,962	1,363,634
Accounts receivable, net	637,030	553,603
Prepayments and other assets	360,353	316,810
Contributions receivable, net	192,348	222,635
Student loans, net	6,583,372	6,092,595
Investments, at market value	12,462,656	12,512,096
Property, plant, and equipment, net	13,569,232	12,866,915
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 34,939,661</b>	<b>\$ 35,130,596</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<i>Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,200,703	\$ 1,609,064
Annuity obligations	85,398	115,766
Deferred revenue	2,058,998	1,693,124
Bonds payable	9,860,000	10,055,000
Refundable U.S. government grants	6,092,767	5,974,665
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>19,297,866</b>	<b>19,447,619</b>
<i>Net assets:</i>		
Unrestricted	9,140,945	8,870,043
Temporarily restricted	4,496,755	4,792,178
Permanently restricted	2,004,09	2,020,756
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>15,641,795</b>	<b>15,682,977</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 34,939,661</b>	<b>\$ 35,130,596</b>

NECO Operating Revenues



NECO Operating Expenses





## THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended June 30

2008

2007

### Change in unrestricted net assets

#### Operating revenues:

Tuition and fees	\$14,451,766	\$13,400,164
Less scholarships and grants	(387,209)	(400,752)
Tuition and fees, net	14,064,557	12,999,412
Contributions	270,019	165,668
Patient care	2,592,235	2,012,920
Grants and contracts	1,613,084	1,434,727
Interest income	64,660	90,078
Other sources	195,531	124,021
Total operating revenues	18,800,086	16,826,826
Net assets released from restrictions	434,043	170,483
Total operating revenues and net assets released from restrictions	19,234,129	16,997,309

#### Operating expenses:

Clinical instruction and patient care	5,984,644	5,194,187
Instruction	4,204,256	4,578,448
Research	1,660,666	1,461,776
Academic support	1,236,297	1,381,594
Student services	1,086,921	965,666
Institutional support	4,609,672	4,090,907
Auxiliary enterprises	202,831	218,780
Total operating expenses	18,985,287	17,891,358
Change in net assets from operating activities	248,842	(894,049)

#### Nonoperating activities:

Investment return	22,060	575,825
Clarification of donor intent	—	95,498
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	270,902	(222,726)

### Change in temporarily restricted net assets

Contributions	92,044	160,837
Interest income	4,749	—
Investment return	41,827	568,176
Clarification of donor intent	—	(207,016)
Net assets released from restrictions	(434,043)	(170,483)
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	(295,423)	351,514

### Change in permanently restricted net assets

Contributions	7,375	2,660
Change in value of life income funds	(24,036)	23,409
Clarification of donor intent	—	111,518
Increase (decrease) in permanently restricted net assets	(16,661)	137,587
Change in net assets	(41,182)	266,375
Net assets as of beginning of year	15,682,977	15,416,602
Net assets as of end of year	\$15,641,795	\$15,682,977



# alumni PERSPECTIVE



Phil Sutherland, OD '86 welcoming Martin Baer, OD '57 into the Half Century Club

Three alumni who have demonstrated outstanding leadership to the profession – David Heath, OD '83, Judi Schaffer, OD '93, and Christian Swenby, OD '00, – were honored at Alumni Reunion earlier this fall.

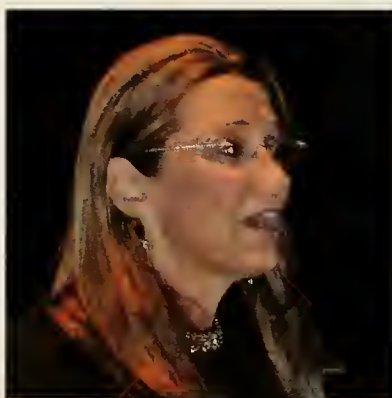
The annual event, which brought alumni from the Classes of 1948 to 2008, featured the first alumni-student tea, a continuing education program, the annual dinner, a meeting of the Alumni Association, and a number of social events.

President Elizabeth Chen also hosted the inaugural reception for the Golden Grads Society for alumni who graduated more than 40 years ago and the Half Century Club for alumni with more than five decades of service to the profession.

The alumni-student tea brought together some 30 students from all four classes at the College with alumni where they shared stories



David Heath, OD '83 accepts the Distinguished Service Award



Judi Schaffer, OD '93 accepts the Alumna of the year Award

about NECO today and what it was like years ago.

Dr. Heath, the president of the State University of New York College of Optometry, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. He previously served for more than 20 years at NECO, most recently as Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs. He has more than 90 scholarly publications and or presentations to his credit.

Dr. Schaffer received the Alumna of the Year Award. She has made significant contributions to the profession in Florida where she works at LensCrafters. She is a former Florida Optometrist of the Year and past President of the Palm Beach and Broward County Optometric Associations.

The Young Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Swenby who serves as a Board member of the Connecticut Association of Optometrists where he is active in the membership and legislative committees. He and his wife, Betsy Cabanillas Swenby, OD '00, are opening a private practice in Guilford, CT.



Christian Swenby, OD '00 accepts the Young Alumnus of the Year Award

# alumni CLASSNOTES

## Deaths

Max Berman, OD '39  
 Romeo Noury, OD '39  
 Harold Cline, OD '42  
 Robert Rodman, OD '42  
 Monthe N. Kofos, '43,  
 Norman Riley, OD, '49  
 Melvin A. Richmond OD '49  
 John Musserian, OD '50  
 James Casey, Jr., OD '53  
 William Coniaris, OD, '53  
 Eugene Fischer OD '61  
 Charles "Ted" Bayshore, honorary  
 degree recipient  
 Morton Silverman, OD, former faculty  
 member

## Engagements

Kara Silverberg, OD '07 to Adam  
 Feldberg  
 Nathaniel Graham, OD III to Heidi  
 Madson

## Marriages

Angela Bernardo, OD '99 to Dennis  
 Lehane on February 23, 2008.  
 Melissa Hergan, OD '02 to Jason  
 Simmons on April 26, 2008.  
 Brian Walborn, OD '02 to Heather  
 McCullough on May 31, 2008.  
 Candice Cain, OD '07 to Christopher Fix  
 on September 29, 2007.  
 Maria Sampalis, OD '07 to George  
 Masganas on July 12, 2008

Frank Kozol, OD '48, a  
 respected and honored professor,  
 administrator and active alumnus  
 for more than six decades, passed  
 away on Nov. 7.

"The College has lost a very  
 special alumnus and I feel a per-  
 sonal loss," President Elizabeth  
 Chen said. "Frank was always  
 quick with a compliment and a  
 smile and provided a bridge for us  
 across generations of alumni."

"Uncle Frank" enrolled at the  
 College after serving with distinc-  
 tion in the military during World  
 War II, and remained active and  
 committed to his alma mater and  
 profession throughout his life.

He was a professor of  
 Ophthalmic Optics and served  
 the College with distinction as  
 the longtime Registrar and as an  
 active member of the Alumni  
 Association.

He was the recipient of the  
 1975 Alumnus of the Year Award  
 and recently agreed to serve  
 another term on the Alumni  
 Board.

Dr. Kozol was the co-author  
 of a classic textbook on eyeglass  
 dispensing and wrote numerous  
 articles for both optometry and  
 ophthalmology journals.

## Births

John Rathjens, OD '96 and Robin  
 Rathjens, OD '99 a daughter, Eliza Grace,  
 on April 3, 2008  
 Aileen Maria-Cruz, OD '02 and Ramon  
 Cruz a son, Noah Alexander, on June 14,  
 2007  
 Jennifer Shanley, OD '04 and Bao Che,  
 OD '04 a son, Sebastian, on March 29,  
 2008



Howard Coleman, OD '57,  
 Benjamin Lambert II, OD '62



## 1930's

Frederick Wagner, OD '39 retired  
 last year at age 92. During his career he  
 served as the President of the Boston  
 Society of Optometrists, as a member of  
 the MSO and AOA, and on the Board  
 of the Registration in Optometry. He also  
 served as a member of the Advisory Board  
 of the Metropolitan Bay Transportation  
 Authority, Metropolitan Area Planning  
 Council, the Board of Selectmen for the  
 Town of Saugus, and as Chairman of the  
 Town of Saugus Youth Commission.

## 1940's

Jack Goldstein, OD '48 is still provid-  
 ing eye care in Union City, NJ at the same  
 practice he founded almost 60 years ago.

Sanford Monsein, OD '49 is still in  
 active practice. His wife, a registered  
 pharmacist, manages his office. Sandy has  
 held the presidency of the New England  
 Council of Optometrists, the presidency of  
 the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists,  
 and was the AOA national chair for mem-  
 bership. In addition he headed the health  
 planning council which represents 17  
 cities on the North Shore.

Richard Snow, OD '49 continues to  
 volunteer at the Eye Clinic of Bay Pines  
 Veterans Administration Medical Center.  
 He and his late wife have two sons, five  
 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.



## 1950's

**Burton Gerson, OD '50** is enjoying his retirement and keeps busy singing in his temple choir and playing golf.

**Melvin Kranseler, OD '50** is retired and living in California. He is the past president of the California Optometric Association Tri County Society.

**Allan Kurlan, OD '53** will be celebrating his 55th wedding anniversary with wife Marilyn on November 29, 2009. They have two children and three grandchildren. Allan enjoys playing tennis, gardening, and playing the piano.

**Martin Baer, OD '57** sold his practice in 2007 to **Zoya Tolchin, OD '07**. He now spends time playing golf, vacationing in Florida, and babysitting for his grandson. His wife, Ruth, wrote and published the book *Samantha Rose* which addresses how to help children express grief. She wrote this because their granddaughter, Samantha Rose, suddenly passed away at 16 months of age. The book is available in bookstores and via Amazon.com. Profits go to The Children's Hospital in Boston.

**Richard Susskind, OD '57** lives on Cape Cod and spends his days writing, reading, golfing, and traveling since his retirement from private practice. He has four children and six grandchildren.

## 1960's

**Frank Pimentel OD '67** retired as of June 30, 2007.

**Harrison Smiley, OD '68** is in the process of selling his practice in E. Providence, RI but will continue providing exams at the state prison and nursing homes. He and his wife have five children and four grandchildren.

## 1970's

**Anthony Cavallerano, OD '72** was a speaker at the Maine Optometric Association's December 2007 Conference.



Mary Scott OD '68, has retired from the Board of Trustees after a long and distinguished service to the College. She remains active in her private practice at the Southboro Medical Group in Southboro, MA.

**John Maurillo, OD '73** is married and has two children.

**Joseph Osmanski, OD '74** reports that son Jad, who graduated from NECO last June, will be married this December.

**Mitchell Scheiman, OD '75**, Daniel Kurtz, OD '82 and Jane Gwiazda, PhD were recently published in Review of Optometry for Correction of Myopia Evaluation Trial Study Group on the topic of progressive addition lenses.

**Walter Potaznick, OD '76** was inducted in July as President of The MD-33 S, Lion's International, Eyemobile Committee. The Eyemobile provides vision, hearing and blood pressure screenings for all of Southeastern Massachusetts.

**Joe Taddonio, OD '76** continues his work (and is in his 19th year) with Nationwide Vision Center, the largest optometry employer in Arizona.

**Phyllis Andrekjo, OD '77** has been named Director of Eye Care Services at New England Eye Roslindale which is part of the New England Eye Institute Network at NECO.

**Fred E. Goldberg, OD '77** is currently the President-Elect of the Virginia Optometric Association and President of the McLean Lion's Club. He and his wife Maria have five children and seven grandchildren.

The Rev. Arthur MacKay, OD '79 delivered his first homily as an ordained Catholic priest in May 2008.

## 1980's

**Bill Chauncey, OD '80, PhD** served on the NECO faculty from 1980-2004 and as Clinic Director at Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter. He currently spends his time playing golf, hiking, traveling, and studying Spanish.

**Ken Landesman, OD '82** is a partner in two private practices in Westchester County, NY as well as an assistant clinical professor at SUNY College of Optometry.



Guang-Ji Wang, OD '92, MD and Thomas Little, OD '08

**Padmini Nathan, OD '82** continues working in a group practice in Maryland and has two daughters currently attending the George Washington University School of Medicine.

**Alan Rapoport, OD '86** has completed his term as the president of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists.

**Denise Dobbins, OD '89** is the current president of the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners and the Danville Christian Academy Parent Teacher Fellowship. Denise also serves as a COPE reviewer for ARBO and is on the nominating committee for ARBO. She and husband, Barry Kowali, OD '89 have one daughter.

For more photos and alumni stories go to

# [www.neco.edu/alumni](http://www.neco.edu/alumni)



## 1990's

**Kenneth S. Lee, OD '91** is currently practicing at Straub Clinic and Hospital in Honolulu, HI.

**Antoinette Parvis, OD '91** has obtained the following honors: Official citation from the Massachusetts State Senate and Certificate of Congratulations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The Oxford Board of Selectmen declared May 5, 2008 as Dr. Antoinette Parvis Day in Oxford, MA.

**Robert Aube, Jr., OD '92** owns one Visual Perceptions practice in Rocky Hill, CT and is a partner in another in Vernon, CT. He and wife, Liz, have four children.

**Sheiva Pousti, OD '94** has retired from her private practice after over 10 years to be a stay-at-home mom for her one and a half year old daughter. She and her family reside in La Jolla, CA.

**Michelle Bouchard, OD '96** is finalizing the purchase of a private practice for which she and another NECO graduate, **John McCormick, OD '88** are partners. Michelle has three children and lives in Boothbay, ME.

**Karen Grucci Brown, OD '96** has been in practice with a group of ophthalmologists for 12 years. The practice includes a corneal specialist, three general ophthalmologists, and retina services. She specializes in contact lens fittings including keratinous and corneal transplant. She and her husband have two children.

**Cristina Rouiller, OD '96** has been working for The Medical Eye Center ophthalmology practice in Olney, MD for 12 years. She is the contact lens and keratinous specialist in the area.

**Holly Jacques, OD '99** is newly licensed in Rhode Island and works with former classmate Eric Hall, OD '99 in Woonsocket. She has two children.

**Rebecca Voorthuis-Goldman, OD '99** married Seth Goldman in 1999 and they have a son Jack and another boy due in September. She provides primary optometry care at Voorthuis Opticians, Inc., the company her father started over 30 years ago. She oversees the optometric practice in their seven offices while her husband and sister oversee the business management and optical operations.

## 2000's

**Dana Dean, OD '00** opened a private practice in San Diego, CA specializing in vision therapy in 2003 and only practices developmental eye exams. She works with charter schools regarding vision labs as a class for all students. She and her husband have two sons.

**Maria Florio Jablonski, OD '00** has been working for Koch Eye Associates in Johnson, RI since completing her OD IV rotation with them. She is a member of the RIOA and a "special eyes" Special Olympics volunteer each year, providing free exams and glasses to Special Olympics athletes. She has served as an examiner for Part III of the National Board Exam for the past two years and received the 40 Under 40 Award from Providence Business News for her commitment to community and career. Maria is married and has two sons.

**Curtis Newcomb, OD '00** is married to **Janet Schroeder Newcomb, OD '02** and they have a two-year-old son. They work together in a private practice in Reading, CA.



Mark O'Donoghue, OD '82 receives the Carroll Maretus Award from Scott Chamberland, OD '08.



Donna Reed, OD '00 purchased her own practice in New London, NH in 2007.

Joseph Russo, OD '00 is working for Eye Health Vision Centers of Dartmouth as well as conducting nursing home exams for Medical Eyecare of Norwood.

Melissa Hergan, OD '02 was promoted to Major on April 1. She is the first Flight Commander of Optometry Services for the 2nd Medical Group at Barksdale Air Force Base

Jodee Perretta Price, OD '03 and Richard Price, OD '03 have a one-year-old daughter.

Tim Eggimann, OD '04 is working at the Aspen Medical Group in Hopkins, MN. He and his wife have two young children.

Barbara Cohn, OD '05 is the sole eye care provider with the Indian Health Service in Montana, a critical access hospital that serves a population of over 5,000 Native Americans. She has been there since she graduated from NECO. She and her husband have a one-year-old daughter.

Deborah Lee, OD '06 has been appointed to the position of attending optometrist in the Department of Ophthalmology at Boston Medical Center.

Andrew McLeod, OD '06 has been appointed to the position of attending optometrist in the Department of Ophthalmology Services at Boston Medical Center.

Jennifer Stewart, OD '07 is serving as a member of the AchieveVision Program through The Vision Care Institute, LLC a Johnson & Johnson company. This council explores ways to best work with Olympic athletes. An article about her work with Olympic athletes appeared in the July 2008 issue of *Contact Lens Spectrum*.

## Classnotes are Going On-line

Starting this spring, alumni will have the opportunity to read classnotes more often and in more depth as the Alumni Office will be sending them out four times a year on-line as part of a new e-newsletter.

If you do not have an e-mail account, please contact the Office of Alumni and Student Relations at **617-587-5575** and you will receive printed copies of future newsletters. If the Alumni Office does not have your latest e-mail address, please forward it to [alumni@neco.edu](mailto:alumni@neco.edu).

The new on-line community for alumni will include a password protected, searchable alumni directory that you can update, listings of upcoming events, on-line event registration, links to social network pages, and enhanced broadcast e-mail messages.



Erik Weissberg, OD '97, Jazmintha Ellaurie, OD '08, and Terrance B. Neylon, EdD



Andrea Murphy, OD '08, Noemi Guemes, OD '08, and Hetel Bhakta, OD '08

## New Faculty

Stacy Choi and Nathan Doble have joined the faculty of the Department of Vision Science. They are a husband and wife research team doing state of the art research on the study of retinal and optic nerve diseases using ultra high resolution retinal imaging systems such as adaptive optics (A.O.) flood illuminated fundus cameras and A.O. Fourier-domain O.C.T.

For the past three years, Choi has used ultra-high resolution fundus imaging systems at the University of Rochester to study in detail the anatomical changes that occur in the retinas of patients with various retinopathies. She will teach ophthalmic optics.

Doble is an engineer/physicist with degrees in applied optics, laser physics and optoelectronics. As a post-doc at the University of Rochester, he helped design the first A.O. system to allow individual rod receptors to be seen. He also co-founded Iris A.O., Inc., a company that manufactures microelectromechanical deformable mirrors and builds adaptive optics systems for defense, surveillance, and biomedical applications.

Rodney Gutner, OD '73, has recently become a full time faculty member in the Department of Community Health. He has been affiliated with the college for over three decades through his work at the Bedford V.A. He is a nationally recognized ocular photographer and is currently a lecturer and lab instructor in the P.P.O. courses and a facilitator in the Clinical Reasoning course series.

Cherie Farkash has joined the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Disease and the Department of Community Health. Cherie is course master for two Neuroanatomy courses. She formerly was a fellow at the Eye Institute at PCO.

## Leaving



President Alan Lewis, OD '66

Alan Lewis, OD '66, PhD, who served as the College's president from 1999 to 2006, will retire at the end of this academic year. He has been teaching courses in the Department of Vision Science for the past two years.

David Troilo, PhD, professor of Biomedical Sciences and Disease, has been named Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs at the SUNY School of Optometry in New York. Dr. Troilo, former faculty chair and director of graduate studies, was a professor for 15 years and a prolific researcher. He was a past winner of the student-selected Faculty of the Year Award.

Marjorie Rah, OD, PhD has resigned and accepted a position in the contact lens department at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. She has been a member of the Department of Specialty and Advanced Care since 2000. She is a nationally known researcher in the area of contact lenses, with specialization in corneal refractory therapy. She served as a clinical instructor in NEEL's contact lens clinic.

Jennifer Hazelwood, OD '00, an assistant professor since 2001, has resigned to open a private practice in Ohio. She has served as attending optometrist and clinic director at the South Boston Community Health Center and has been course master.

## Presentations

Four faculty members presented their research work at the 12th International Conference on Myopia in Cairns, Australia. Jane Gwiazda, PhD, presented a keynote address on how progressive addition lenses slow myopic progression in some children. She also presented research on how time spent on visual activities differ between myopic and non-myopic children.

Debra Nickla, PhD, presented an invited address on "The middle of the signal cascade in emmetropization: The choroid and the effects of nitric oxide synthase (NOS) inhibitors, muscarinic antagonists and dopaminergic agonists."



Debra Nickla, PhD

Elise Harb, OD '04, presented a poster on "The accommodation response in marmosets with imposed anisometropia." Her collaborators were Sanbrita Ghosh, OD '09, Mark O'Connor, OD '09, Kristen Totonelly, former animal facilities manager, and David Troilo.

Frank Thorn, OD '79, PhD, presented posters on "Mathematical modeling of longitudinal data for myopia progression" as well as on his work with numerous collaborators at the Wenzhou Medical College.



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